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IOWA COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK

SHARING IOWA'S INFINITE POSSIBILITIES

ICN 2014 and 2015 Appropriation Requests Upgrade to Industry-Compatible Equipment

DESCRIPTION

This appropriation is status quo and will continue to fund equipment replacement and provide investment that allows the State to receive Universal Service Fund (USF) reimbursements. This appropriation request calls for an investment of \$ 2,248,653 to replace and upgrade equipment that is reaching its end of functional life. This minimum investment will address two different funding issues affecting the ICN: To ensure ICN eligibility to receive USF monies on behalf of Iowa's schools and libraries, an investment in the Network infrastructure must be made. Previously, the state's annual debt service payment for construction of the Network's backbone met this requirement. With the investment of \$2.25 million the ICN is forecasted to receive \$1.2 million during the 2013-14 and 2014-2015 school years USF funding cycles.

- Replacement of aging equipment or industry-compatible equipment on the Network to ensure connectivity, including Capitol Complex phone equipment.
- A state-appropriated investment requirement allows the State to receive USF reimbursements on behalf the ICN's K-12 school and library users.

APPROPRIATION REQUEST JUSTIFICATION

The ICN is a state-owned, fiber-optic network reaching all corners of the state, providing state-of-the-art high-speed broadband and telecommunications services to authorized users.

Funding availability has created inconsistent infrastructure capital investment in ICN equipment.

Voice (Local Telephone System) Equipment for State Agencies in the Des Moines Metro Area (\$1,098,653) (Final part of a nine-year project.)

The manufacturer does not support the old equipment and replacement parts are scarce. Desired features are being added, such as caller ID, the ability to comply with new eDiscovery laws, and the ability to have redundancy for the Network. The annual level of the agency's infrastructure request has been minimized by using multiyear deployment, but employees do not have features available on the newer phone system simultaneously. This purchase provides a "dollar for dollar" against the deferred maintenance. Due to unified communications features being requested by several agencies, additional equipment will be procured to make this change. Phones will continue to be migrated to both new systems as appropriate to meet their needs.

Internet Protocol Technology Equipment (\$1,150,000)

New video applications for education, and other government and medical services, are moving to Internet Protocol (IP) technology. Capabilities offered by this equipment allow more simultaneous sessions and better quality Video over IP conferences. Deferred maintenance savings will be seen in future years, as the lifespan of the new equipment is longer than the routers being replaced. This funding will compliment the upgrades funded by the Broadband Stimulus funding received from the US Department of Commerce and allow the network to provide more robust services in a shorter time frame. ICN is looking to complete the Ethernet upgrade within the next five years. The IP video equipment will follow the core equipment purchased.

DAVE LINGREN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR